TIMES-VIRGINIAN

In The Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt

Appomattox, Virginia

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Calvin H. Robinson — — Editor and Publisher

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EDITORIALS

THE BIG PROBLEM OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

Elsewhere on this page we reprint a study of the current debate over basic national defense policy, from the able and always interesting editorial page of the Atlanta Constitution.

It seems to us, layman that we are, that in placing the proper balance between the Navy, the Army, and the Air Force in our national defense, we could use a bit of grass-roots common sense.

One of the most fascinating books we ever read was "Creative Chemistry," by the late E. E. Slosson. In to that dull-titled work, he packed a breath-taking panorama of world history as influenced by the unfolding of scientific development. One chapter we recall declared that feudalism was doomed by the use of gunpowder. He wrote: "You can't fence with a cannonball nor overawe it with a plumed hat."

That seems applicable today. In planning national defense, you must weigh carefully what you are likely to meet up with in a war and what weapons most likely will be used by your potential opponents.

Now for time on end, naval power has been a major factor in all warfare. You don't have to dig up dusty textbooks to recall that in the present century there have been some potent naval powers in the world. For obvious reasons, Britain and Japan specialized in building up naval power. Germany and Italy and France had creditable navies. It was easy for us to figure that smartness lay in matching this might. Eventually, the Japanese naval strength became such we had to undertake the expensive task of building up a great Two Ocean Navy. That we did so and overcome everything that floated is everlastingly to our credit. Seldom in history has the naval might of any nation been so overwhelming as was that of the United States at the conclusion of World War II. That is and was all to the good.

And we want to keep it that way. We expect our Congress and our government to keep it that way.

But, hard common sense tells us that there is no potential enemy today tro threaten us on the seas. The Japanese, the Italian and the German navies are out of existense. The French and the British navies are not potential enemies. And the Russian navy can hardly figure as a serious threat. Our Navy is somewhat like Joe Louis was for a spell: plumb out of opponents.

It is difficult to conceive that the Russians will ever present a serious threat. The Russians, for all their fine history, have just simply never been a great seafaring people. They didn't need to be. It was natural that England, for example, should be a sea power, but the great land mass of Russia, lack of outlets and great ports, forbade development of sea power. Even with their help we had a time finding a way to get supplies to them in the last war. It is possible that Russia may build a few submarines and they may even build a few small craft to harass unprotected shipping in the Baltic and Black Seas. But it would take a vivid imagination to envision the Russians as being serious contenders to our sea power.

So, without taking a bit of the glory from our triumphant Navy, and without dreaming for a moment that we would foolishly permit any other nation to get anywhere close to us in naval strength, nevertheless it is sheer commonsense to submit that the facts justify principal concentration on land and air forces. And to so reason is no slur upon our splendid Navy or anyone connected with it. We want, we need, and we shall maintain a navy superior to that of any other power or any combination of powers. We shall continue to build new ships and continue to develop our great naval air weapons. The point is that the facts mean that for the foreseeable future, the Navy must take a somewhat smaller percentage of our national defense budgets.

Our potential opponents in a future war would fight us to the hilt in the air and would have gigantic land armies. And that is the thing our planners must consider in planning how best to spend the money a defense-conscious nation puts up.

As for us, we have confidence in the judgment of our able Secretary of defense, Louis Johnson, and his advisors. We see no evidence that they are weakening the defense of the nation, but rather we believe they are acting wisely to protect us at the least possible expense.

TREE-LINED STREETS

Unless a current trend is reversed, concrete curb and gutter eventually may replace the stately shade trees which lend charm and dignity to "Main Street" in many Virginia towns and villages.

The State Highway Department made this unhappy prediction to day after noting the growing number of localities which request curb and gutter construction. In most instances, the department said this construction requires the removal of trees that in many cases have stood since Colonial days.

Department engineers agreed that highway progress is essential in this age of motor transport, but they said such progress should not be at the expense of tree-lined streets or boulevards.

They said it is a departmental policy to follow local desires when highway improvements are necessary in a town or village. And when official town resolutions request curb and gutter, it is the department's policy to go along with the request . . providing the resolutions state that the request is being made in spite of departmental recommendations to the contrary.

For that reason, the department hopes that the Old Dominion's smaller communities will agree that trees may often mean more to a town or village than the more modern concrete curb and gutter.

WITH OTHER EDITORS

THE BASIC DEFENSE QUESTION

From The Atlanta Constitution

While it probably will be unfortunate for him, and perhaps temporarily unfortunate for the Navy, that he adopted the "shadowy corridor" method of setting off his latest barrage, it may be that in the long run Capt. John G. Crommelin, of Demopolis, Ala., has done the nation a service in bringing into the open the conflict over defense policies.

It is difficult for the laymen, even for so-called armchair strategists, to get at the root of the dispute. Part of the blame lies in the rigid censorship laid down by the National Defense establishment. Indeed, it is that policy which led Capt. Crommelin to adopt the stealthy approach.

Basically, however, the Navy's intense feeling stems from its opposition to steps being taken by Secretary of Defense Johnson which will lead to a general staff setup in the Navy similar to that which now operates in the Army and Air Force. The Navy reasons that if administrative set-ups of the three branches of service are established along identical lines it will be only a half step further to the combined general staff organization such as that used by Germany, in two successful wars, and Japan and Italy in World War II, also unsuccessfully.

Navy officers believe, and with justification, that the general staff eventually might lead to a military dictatorship in this country. Further, they doubt the efficacy of the general staff in conducting a war and offer Germany as a prime example. The woeful lack of intelligent planning which rendered Germany unable to invade Britain and the more of the same which gave the Allies control of the Mediterranean in the last war are only two examples. The German General Staff was dominated by Hermann Goering, the air chief, who had no knowledge of naval strategy and therefore refused to allow the development of sufficient sea power successfully to carry out the necessary objectives.

A great many in and out of the Navy, fear that a general staff in this country, which obviously would be dominated two-to-one by Air Force and Army officers, would be prone to the same mistakes. For instance, until recently, Sec. Johnson and the Chiefs of Staff of the Army and Air Force never had been aboard an aircraft carrier. Can those with such obviously limited knowledge of naval warfare be trusted to law down, in detail, the weapons and policies of the Navy?

That, and not the dispute over strategic bombing between the Navy and the Air Force, is the basic question involved.

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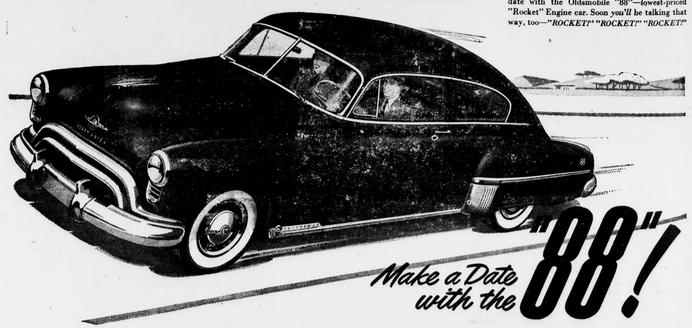

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Rocks News

Rocks, Oct. 10.- Farmers are busy shucking corn.

Only a few attended the Home Demonstration Club meeting Monday afternoon. It was held in the home of Mrs. Percy Carter.

David Almond, son of Mr. and Mrs Wilson Almond, was operated on for appendicitis Tuesday.

Mrs. L. K. Almond spent a few days last week in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Almond at Appomattox.

Louise Ransom spent Saturday night with her grandmother, Mrs. F. E. Ranson.

Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Williams and son, Steve, of Waynesboro attended Sunday School at Rocks Sunday, and were dinner guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Roach.

Those visiting Cassie Baldwin on Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Louis Dickerson and children and Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Evans, of Charlotte Court House.

Mrs. D. R. Inge went to Norfolk over the week-end to attend the marriage of her granddaughter, Katherine Ranson.

A few from Rocks went to Evergreen Sunday night to the preaching service and B. T. U.

Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Eisemon had a few of their friends from Galts Mill to visit them Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ranson got a new car Saturday.

A few from Rocks are planning to attend the W. M. U. rally of Group No. 4 at Liberty Thursday.

The quarterly business meeting will be held at the church Saturday, October 15, at 2:30. A very important meeting, so please be present.

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Evergreen

Evergreen, Oct. 11.- Mr. and Mrs. Sam White and three children, of Lynchburg spent last Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Staples.

Jimmie Harris is able to be out after a recent illness.

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Farrar, of Petersburg spent a few days last week with her sister, Mrs. Sam Jennings.

Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Thompson and Mrs. Mary Sullivan, of Lynchburg spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Glover. They were accompanied home Sunday afternoon by their mother, who went to the doctor for treatment.

Mr. and Mrs. David Garrett returned to Washington, D. C. Saturday to visit her sister Mrs. J. T. Gibson and family, and will leave Sunday for their new home in Massachussetts. We wish them much home Monday.

Roy Wariner is improving after a recent illness.

Mrs. John Young and Mrs Spencer called to see Mrs Eddie Warriner last Wednesday afternoon. Mrs. Joe Parsette, Mrs. Ashby Paulette and daughter and Mrs. Ronald Paulette and baby called in the same home Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Reynolds and son spent the week-end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Reynolds, of Vera.

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Thoughts Differ On What Phrase Sums Up America

MILWAUKEE—What is the one phrase which would typify the conception "America?" There are many schools of thought on the subject.

For instance, Collier's magazine calls itself as "American as baseball." Philip Murray says his CIO is as "American as the hot dog." The Berkshire hills of Massachusetts are advertised as being "as American as apple pie," and a dramatic critic finds that the new Broadway musical, "Miss Liberty," to be as "American as a watermelon patch."

There can be no serious quarrel with any of those striking similes. Baseball is quite the American game, even though the experts find that English boys 200 years ago were playing a game called "base ball" with pitchers, batters, base runners and outfielders. Basketball would be an even better example of Americana. It was invented by Dr. James Naismith 58 years ago and has no other roots.

Had Foreign Origin

As to Mr. Murray's "hot dog" reference, we can go along with that. The "hot dog" is certainly American by adoption—what sports event, circus or festival is complete without it — even though it did start life as a wiener of Vienna or a frankfurter of Frankfurt.

The benighted Germans were munching that delicacy for generations without realizing the treasure they had. We have taken the hot dog and raised it, along with the hamburger from Hamburg, to an American institution. It's like the case of the song "Dixie," which was written by a northerner and confiscated by the southerners for their own anthem. And when the Civil war was ending, Abe Lincoln asked that "Dixie" be played because it was one of his favorite tunes, and he jovially boasted that the North was entitled to it by right of conquest.

Is apple pie so American, as the Berkshires people claim? Jack Horner pulled a plum out of his Christmas pie back in the 16th century days of King Henry VIII, when America was unsettled. (The jingle was occasioned by Jack's grabbing some nice estates in a political shake-up). And the pie experts believe that if they had plum pies then, they had apple, too.

Pumpkin Better Simile

But it is in America that the apple pie has approached the status of necessity and a fine art. "As American as pumpkin pie" is a little more apt. The pumpkin is a real American old-timer.

What can be as American as a watermelon patch? Well, a good many things. The watermelon is a native of Africa and grows in warm regions the world around—but most picturesquely, we are convinced, in our own Dixie land of corn and cotton, ol' times dat am not forgotten. You may take watermelons out of America, but you can't take Americans away from their watermelon.

Now if you are looking for something peculiarly and symbolically American what about the giant redwood and sequoia trees? They are the biggest things that grow on earth, and they supposedly grow nowhere on earth but our West coast.

Mother's Courage, Stamina Save Life of 2-Year-Old Son

SPRINGFIELD, N. H.—A mother's courage and stamina combined to save the life of her two-year old son from drowning in a 20-foot well.

Mrs. Earl Dumont, 29, held the boy above her head for an hour while standing up to her neck in the cold water of the well. "I wasn't too scared," she said of her experience.

Garry fell through a 16-inch hole into the well while at play on the family's farm late Thursday. He landed in six feet of water. Mrs. Dumont removed her clothing, squeezed through the opening and dropped into the water beside him.

Grabbing her son, the woman swam to the side of the well and clung to a projecting brick as she held her son's head above water.

Meanwhile, her 6 year old son, Earl, and her 10 year old brother, Marvin Mason, lowered a bucket into the well. Mrs. Dumont boosted Garry into the bucket and kept him afloat.

Marvin ran two miles to a neighbor, who telephoned Mrs. Dumont's husband. He was working in New London, five miles away. He sped to the scene, removed his clothing and jumped into the well beside his wife and son.

One of Dumont's co-workers lowered a rope and the father helped to haul his son to safety. The baby, blue with cold, was taken to a hospital.

Neighbors then removed a heavy millstone covering the well, but it was another 25 minutes before the Dumonts were rescued.

Oakville

Oakville, Oct. 11.- Mr. and Mrs. C. Roland Smith and Daphine spent Sunday in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Martin at Spout Spring.

Visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Martin recently were Mrs. Dick Robertson, of Appomattox; her mother, Mrs. Davidson, of Buckingham, and Mrs. Pomp Wood.

Mr. and Mrs. Percy Page, of Lynchburg visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Page on Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Page spent last week in Farmville with relatives.

We wish to thank all those who had a part in getting some gravel for our driveway at the school.

The Oakville P.-T. A. had its monthly meeting at the school on Tuesday evening. The attendance was good. A Hallowe'en Carnival is being planned for the 28th.

Mr. and Mrs. Preston Coleman visited Mrs. Daisy Rogers Sunday. She is improving slowly from a recent illness.

Richard E. Smith, Jr. is home from Wyoming on a fifteen day leave. He will go to Langley Field for further training.

The Oakville 4-H Club met at the school last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Wilkerson visited Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Wilkerson and Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Page last week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. Terry Rogers and Linda spent last Sunday in Roanoke with relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Enos Mackinturff and Mr. Walter Burchfield spent several weeks vacationing in Tennessee recently.

Richwood

Richwood, Oct. 11.- Divine services will be held at the Central Baptist Church Sunday evening, with the Training Union at 6:30 and evening worship at 7:30.

Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Joy, Jr., of Richmond were the week-end guests of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Fleshman and Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Joy, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Blackwell visited with Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Fleshman Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Wooldridge and daughter, Marvis were guests Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Davis, at Pamplin.

Mrs. Ann Ward, who has been visiting with relatives in Durand, Michigan returned home last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Godsey visited with Mr. and Mrs. O. T. Giles Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Powell and Mrs. Lynn Powell, of Roanoke visited with Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Powell Saturday afternoon.

Miss Alma Giles, of Hagerstown, Md., was the guest week of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. T. Giles.

Mrs. Annie Powell, who has been visiting with relatives in Roanoke, returned home Saturday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence May were in Lynchburg Tuesday.

Hixburg

Hixburg, Oct. 11.- Guests in the home of E. H. Carson on Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. William Lance Carson, University of Virginia; Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Hix and daughter; Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Carson and daughter, C. B. Carson and John, of Prospect; Mr. and Mrs. Ural Carson and Ural Carson, Jr., of Newport News.

Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Gilliam, of Lynchburg were callers in the home of E. P. Sears.

Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Carson and children spent Saturday night at "Walnut Shade." Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Singleton spent Monday P. M. in this home.

Mrs. T. J. Ligon, of Pamplin spent Thursday in the home of J. R. Marshall.

Second largest volume of crops on record is seen for United States this year.

Congress agrees to pay raise for cabinet members.

Admiral Blandy opposes any decrease for the Navy.

Russia asks for a full count by UN of member's A-bombs.

Truman requests a roll call vote on Olds nomination.

Dealers report used cars are piling up on hands.

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